



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release PM's APRIL 20, 1950

MOST SEALSKIN PRICES ADVANCE AT ANNUAL SPRING AUCTION

Prices of Government-owned fur-seal skins from the Pribilof Islands, sold at a spring auction in St. Louis this week, advanced on average of 12.6 percent over last fall's prices, the Fish and Wildlife Service, U. S. Department of the Interior, announced today. A total of 29,800 Alaska sealskins brought \$1,913,038.

The auction, held by the Fouke Fur Company on April 17, also included South African government and privately owned skins from the Cape of Good Hope.

Fur buyers paid an average of \$64.20 for U. S. Government Alaska sealskins. Average price at the auction last fall was \$55.93; at last year's spring auction it was \$59.55.

Dyed "Matara" (brown) skins sold for an average of \$70.38, an increase in price of 28.6 percent since the last auction of Government Alaska fur-seal skins in October 1949. Average price of "Safari" (lighter-brown) skins was \$50.65, an increase of 5.9 percent. Black skins averaged \$60.41, a decline of 13.9 percent.

In addition to the U. S.-owned skins, the Fouke Fur Co. sold 2528 Cape of Good Hope fur-seal skins for the Government of the Union of South Africa, and 5059 Cape and miscellaneous skins for private shippers. The South African Government-owned skins averaged \$21.89, a decline of 3.7 percent. Figures on the sale of skins for private shippers have not yet been reported.

X X X